

patients had already been received, and all did extremely well; in a few days the administration would be ready for double the number.

At a well-attended meeting in the City Hall, Belfast, on September 21st, a public committee and many subscribers handed over to the military authorities twenty-two motor ambulances for the use of the Ulster Division; most of these are ready and fully equipped. The sum of £10,560 has been subscribed throughout Ulster for this object.

Dr. Joseph Fulton, one of the visiting medical officers of the Poor Law Infirmary, Belfast, has returned the £50 for attendance on the invalided soldiers of the Ulster Division during their stay in one of the blocks of buildings given by the guardians to the military authorities, asking them to spend the sum in comforts for the men.

## Correspondence.

### NAPOLEON'S FUNERAL.

SIR,—The publication in the *Times Literary Supplement* of the diary of Andrew Darling, the upholsterer who acted as undertaker at Napoleon's funeral in 1821, is an event of considerable interest to Napoleonic students. Although it was known that this document had been published in the *St. Helena Advocate* in 1851, all trace of it had been lost, and its contents were unknown. Fortunately, however, Major M. F. Foulds, R.A.M.C., who is at present in medical charge of the troops in St. Helena, is interested in the subject, and is devoting his spare time to a methodical search among the records deposited in the Castle at Jamestown for any facts regarding the captivity of Napoleon that may have been overlooked. Major Foulds happened to be reading a *St. Helena Who's Who*, and he noticed on p. 62, under the heading "Darling," that a document had been written by that person, in which was recorded the dispositions made for the funeral of Napoleon. He therefore prosecuted his search, and amid a mass of records very much ant-eaten, found Darling's diary in an excellent state of preservation. Major Foulds sent the document to me with the request that if deemed of sufficient interest, steps should be taken to secure its publication in the *Times*.

From the historical point of view the diary is of great value, for, unlike so much of the St. Helena evidence, it is untinged with political bias; indeed, it is a plain and minute statement of the way in which the "undertaker" carried out his work. In addition, the document brings to light some facts which were unknown, and, as collateral evidence, confirms several points which were in doubt. Some of these may be mentioned. Darling gives us the exact measurements of Napoleon's height, breadth of shoulders, and depth of chest, as he lay dead (length, 5 ft. 7 in.; only 18 in. barely across the shoulders; and scarcely 10 in. deep). In common with all others who saw the dead Emperor, Darling, the undertaker, was struck with the extraordinary beauty and youthful appearance of the face. Then Darling gives us an exact account of the way in which Napoleon's private apartment was fitted up as a "chapelle ardente," and he describes with minute care the making and furnishing of the coffins and the manner in which the heart and stomach were enclosed in their respective silver receptacles. His version of this last duty tallies with that of Dr. Rutledge, who was in medical charge of the body, and with that of Abraham Millington, the armourer, who soldered up the coffins. Finally, Darling gives us some new facts concerning the much-debated question of the death mask. Thanks to the labours of Mr. G. L. de St. M. Watson, in his recent book, *The Story of Napoleon's Death Mask*, the claim of Dr. Burton as the author of the famous mask now rests on irrefutable evidence, and Antommarchi's pretensions are for ever disposed of. Darling informs us that he purchased 150 small plaster figures in Jamestown and had them ground down to serve as plaster for the cast. Of course this material was bound to be ineffective, for he had neglected to have it calcined. No wonder that when Antommarchi made the attempt he failed, and it was not until Dr. Burton had obtained some crude gypsum from deposits found on the island that a satisfactory cast could be obtained. Darling

also mentions that the mattress on which Napoleon rested in death was much "marred by stains of blood from him when he was turned round to shave the back part of his head for the bust." This mattress with the stains can be seen in Madame Tussaud's. All these and many other interesting details will be found in the document, which is well worthy of perusal.

In connexion with this document it is interesting to record the fact that there is still living in London a lady in her 95th year who was present at the funeral of Napoleon in 1821. It is true that she was only 3½ months old at the time, and, of course, remembers nothing of the occurrence, but she is nevertheless the last surviving link with the Great Emperor in St. Helena.—I am, etc.,

London, E.C., Oct. 4th.

ARNOLD CHAPLIN.

### MEDICAL SERVICE IN THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS.

SIR,—In the discussion on the above by the Scottish Committee at Perth on September 10th some most important points appear to have been entirely overlooked.

The Committee, apparently, assumed that the Highlands and Islands Board guaranteed to the medical officers of the remote parishes a minimum income of £300 per annum *plus* travelling and other working expenses. The Highlands and Islands Board have done nothing of the kind; nor is any such guarantee referred to in their proposed agreement with the doctors.

The medical officers, in the proposed agreement, are to charge a fee of 5s. for the first visit and 2s. 6d. for each subsequent visit during the same illness, and moderate charges for medicines supplied. Should the doctor fail to get his fees—he will never get cash payment in a Highland parish—the Board refuse to take any responsibility for the bad debts, and in the proposed agreement nothing whatever is said as to the Board making up the doctor's income to £300 per annum free of all working expenses.

Again, there is no check on patients who call the doctor long distances for trifling ailments and no extra fee for night visits.

Above all, there is no intention to put the parochial medical officer of the remote Highland parishes on a similar footing to his brethren in England and in Ireland, by making him eligible for a fair pension. Many medical men have "existed" in the Highlands and Islands on beggarly salaries, doing, practically, Government work single-handed for twenty years and over, and now the Treasury steps in and objects to these poor men being allowed a decent superannuation. It appears as if these medical men are being practically asked to clear out, go to the poorhouse, or rely on charitable relatives or friends in their old age for support.

If the Highlands and Islands (Medical Service) Board have not sufficient funds to institute pensions for the older or disabled members of the Highlands and Islands Parochial Medical Service, then the Highland members of Parliament and their constituents must see to it that the grant is increased, if only for ensuring this mere matter of common fairness and justice.

Had these medical officers elected to enter the army or the navy, they would now be entitled to a pension of at least £1 per day. Instead, they have been all along doing much harder work, receiving much less in pay, and left to retire when unfit for the work without a penny.—I am, etc.,

September 21st.

GUARANTEE.

### THE DANGER OF SACCHARINE.

SIR,—The increased taxation of sugar and its substitute, saccharine, thus again increasing their price, seems to be a good opportunity of drawing the attention of the profession to the danger of the latter drug when it is consumed in large quantities. Sugar is a food, saccharine is not; it is a chemical made from coal-tar derivatives having a sweetening property, volume for volume, of about 500 times that of cane sugar. In spite of the fact that before the new taxation its price had already risen by about 25 per cent., it is still consumed in large quantities by the general public in this country, being taken chiefly for obesity. It can be obtained *ad libitum* from druggists, for, although it is chiefly made in Germany and Austria, it is also manufactured in Great Britain.